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A HISTORY OF BABYLONIA AND ASSYRIA

The constant increase in cuneiform source-material is reflected in the latest revision of the history of Babylonia and Assyria.¹

Vol. I is given up entirely to prolegomena, giving the history of the excavations and the decipherment of the cuneiform script, also a description of the lands and peoples, and a discussion of the sources and the chronology. Vol. II consists of "The History of Babylonia," Book II, pp. 132; "The History of Assyria," Book III, pp. 350; "The History of the Chaldean Empire," Book IV, pp. 94. Both volumes are attractively illustrated. The almost formidable bulk of the work is greatly relieved by the grouping together of all the introductory material in one volume.

The account of the excavations and the decipherment of the cuneiform script is presented as a truly fascinating tale that leaves nothing to be desired. The discussion of the sources is, however, brief to a fault. It is made a minor chapter, and in spite of its brevity about a third more space is given to the matter of Greek and Latin writers than is allowed for native sources. It has been recently shown (Olmstead, *University of Missouri Studies*, Vol. III, No. 1, "Assyrian Historiography") what a large amount of critical work must be done upon the sources before even the "annals" can be utilized for historical purposes. We miss, furthermore, any reference to the letter literature, while the business documents are scarcely touched upon. But if the prolegomena to a *political history* is the place for an introduction to Semitic and Sumerian grammar, it ought surely to furnish a careful and somewhat extended survey of the native literature.

The chapter on chronology is also disappointing. The author is content with the piecing together of traditional material, and so far as any critical discussion is undertaken arrives only at negative results. King's arguments for the reduction of Nabuna'id's estimated date of Naram-Sin are largely discounted, but without furnishing any statement that could be called a refutation; indeed, in his arrangement of the king lists Naram-Sin is placed before 3000 B.C. (cf. I, 516). There is no discussion of Hammurapi's date and no mention of the fact that Kugler's astronomical determination of the date is accepted. The author contents himself with a rough approximation that would bring Hammurapi down ten years below that assigned to him (cf. I, 493). Hammurapi is also confidently identified with Amraphel (Gen., chap. 14), and room is made for the historicity of the account "in outline." It would be interesting to know what the outline should include.

"The First and Second Dynasties of Babylon" is the caption of Vol. II, chap. iv, but the chapter contains no mention of the Second Dynasty, and it would probably be difficult for the general reader to determine from these volumes whether the Second Dynasty were fact or fiction. A little more uniformity of revision would have avoided this anomaly.

¹ *History of Babylonia and Assyria*. By R. W. Rogers (New York: Abingdon Press, 1915). Vol. I, pp. xxvi+542, Vol. II, pp. xix+609, sixth edition, largely rewritten and illustrated.

The monotony of the date lists as sources of information is more than once deplored, and, accordingly, the author very rarely records events from these sources unless they bear directly on the warlike operations of some king, and as a result, in the earlier period, where campaigns happen to be infrequent, such a booklet as John's *Ancient Babylonia*, although written as a simple chronicle, contains much more of concreteness and a sense of reality.

On the whole, it is to be deplored that the writer has apparently so narrowed his own conception of what the history should contain that he could be content to describe the succession of reigns and the military campaigns and well-nigh ignore the more intimate social and economic life of the people, for which there is now such abundant material, and which in the long run determined the course of events more vitally than warlike operations. These and similar criticisms are not meant, however, to obscure the many points of excellence in the work, and the fact remains that Professor Rogers' *History*, because of the wideness of its scope and by reason of the inimitable and charming manner in which the story is told, remains the most up-to-date and serviceable reference work for general use that has yet appeared on the subject.

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EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS IN THE LEYDEN MUSEUM¹

The earlier sections of this monumental work have already been noticed in this journal.² Three additional sections, containing (1) the tomb stelae of the Empire, (2) the late monuments, and (3) mummy cases, have now appeared. Dr. Boeser is to be congratulated on the successful continuation of a great and very useful task. The Egyptian monuments in the remarkable Leyden collection now lie before us in a sumptuous series of photographic facsimile plates rarely equaled and never surpassed in the whole domain of archaeological publication. This is the more remarkable in view of the fact that there is not another of the large Egyptian collections of Europe that has been rendered available to science in this complete and sufficient manner. It is now possible to turn to any monument in the Leyden Museum, and to employ it practically as well as if one had the original itself.

To the beautiful series of plates Dr. Boeser has added a very useful descriptive text containing all the essential facts regarding sources, materials, etc., and presenting also translations of the more important portions of the

¹ Dr. P. A. A. Boeser, *Beschreibung der ägyptischen Sammlung des niederländischen Reichsmuseums der Altertümer in Leiden. Ägyptische Sammlung VI: Die Denkmäler des neuen Reiches. (Dritte Abteilung.) Stelen. Ägyptische Sammlung VII: Die Denkmäler der saïtischen, griechisch-römischen, und koptischen Zeit. Ägyptische Sammlung VIII: Beschrijving van de egyptische Verzameling in het Rijksmuseum van Oudheden te Leiden. Mummiekisten van het Nieuwe Rijk.*

² *American Journal of Semitic Languages and Literatures*, XXIII, 264 f.; XXVI, 133 ff.; XXVII, 346 f.; XXIX, 229 f.; XXX, 229 f.